

THE T R U T H A N D E V I D E N C E

Written by his late

M AINT to the KING,

To the Right Honourable

ROBERT WALPOLE,

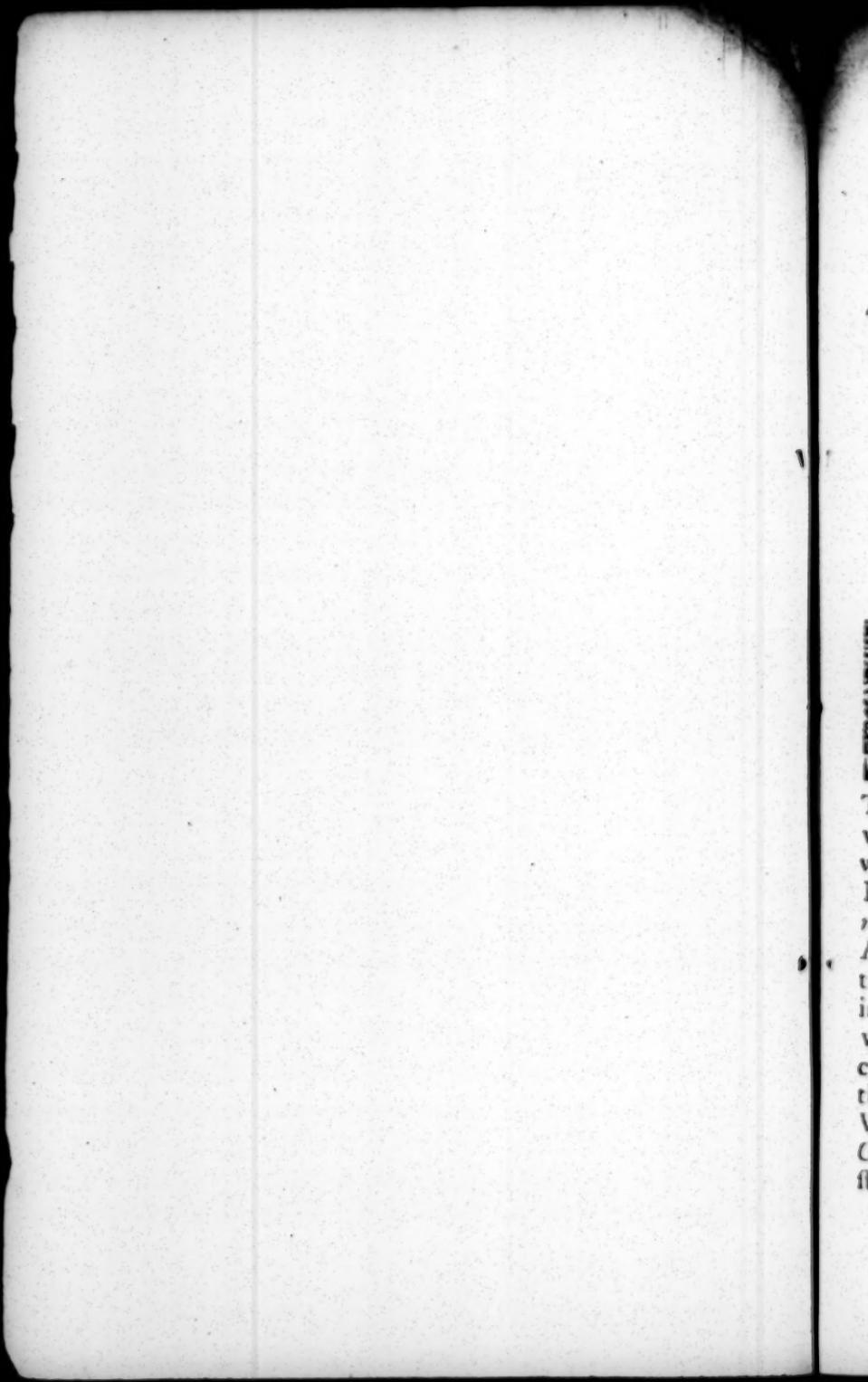
WITH

as on his SPEECH at Court,
to the Craftsman, his Poem to the
and other extraordinary Proceedings.

Sed aliud maledicere, et accusare. Accusatio crimen defiderat, rem praefinitat, hominem ut non. Ante probum, nulla confirmat. Maledictio autem nihil habet proponi, proter Contumeliam: qua frequentius iactatur, convictioni; si facetus, Urbi, si no-
migratur. Cic. pro Scipio

L O N D O N:

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A

T E T T E R

T O

Eustace Budgell Esq; &c.

Mr. BUDGELL,

OUR Conduct with Regard to an Honourable Person, may justify publick Remarks on a *private* Character; and not only the great Distinction of the Minister concerned deserves some Animadversion, but Truth and common Honesty, the Cause of Civil Society, requires that Notice, which otherwise you might not obtain, nor is it in Fact the Reputation of a *single* Person, how great or upright soever he may be: No, Sir, it is not Sir R. W. himself whom we are altogether concerned to vindicate, but if you can think your self safe in your Injustice against the *most powerful* among us, who can be secure in his Peace or his Fame, who can be exempt from injurious Detraction? And therefore we owe it to Mankind, we owe it to Virtue and our Country, that we vindicate the *Greatest* against Wrongs, which can never be justified, tho' done to the *meanest*.

— *Pudet hæc opprobria nobis
Et dici potuisse & non potuisse refelli.*

Since you have taken the worthy Resolution to injure and asperse this *Great Man* by all possible Means, you have not been ashamed to use the lowest Arts for the Covert of your Falshood and Scurrilities. You have endeavoured by *ungentlemanlike* Reflections to intimidate those who might otherwise be willing or able to confute you. Your *Modesty* has even suggested, that all who write against you are *venal Prostitutes, abandoned Hirelings, and Party Scriblers.* You represent your self as a Person of such great *Importance*, that seven *Pamphlets* were wrote against you in one Week, that Places and Money were given to libel you, that your *ingenious* Adversaries had the *Wisdom* and *Honesty* to tell you themselves that they wrote against their *Consciences*, and for *lucrative Considerations*. But really you might as well have entertained us with a *History* of your own immortal Writings, and in that Case I dare say the Account had been even, if *false, malitious* and *scandalous Libels* can ballance those *Writings*, which were owing to *Hire*, and wrote for *Reward*.

Sir, you have given us no *Vouchers* of these *miserable Practices* which you complain of; be it so then. We may take your Word; but you need not rely upon ours alone. There are *Records*, which, some say, are still to be seen, if you please to enquire at the *Crown Office*. If *Viva Voce Evidence* should be requisite, his Grace the Duke of *B—. R. C. Esq; &c.* may possibly give you the most ample *Testimonials* you can reasonably ask, or desire.

I had not said this to Mr. *Budge*!!, if he had not entertained us with his great Discoveries of *Profligates* and *Prostitutes*. I beg Leave to observe, that *common Libellers* have just as much Relation to an humble Complaint against Sir *Robert*

bert Walpole. And pardon me, Mr. Budgell, if, in your own delicate Language, I presume to say that I mention these Particulars as not altogether unworthy your Notice.

Notwithstanding your mean Arts and invidious Suggestions, notwithstanding those idle, improbable and unsupported Stories, with all the various low Attempts, which you and others have practised, to discredit, to asperse and vilify the just Defence of Sir R.W. There are those, and among them I have the Honour to be one, who think it no inglorious Part to do this Great Man all the Justice in our Power, to bring his Integrity before the Judgment of his Country, to prove it by every regular Method, and leave it to the Test of all Reputation, *the free Opinion of Mankind*, Neither am I afraid, any more than ashamed, to proceed in so fair an Undertaking; for I do assure *Eustace Budgell Esq;* I am not to be bullied out of my Birthright by the most *infel*lent Genius ever convicted of libelling.

The Truth and Probity of a Publick Minister, must be a publick Interest, and being so, is proper for common Enquiry, whoever thinks fit to impeach or maintain it. What Right have you to asperse or calumniate a Fame which others have not equal Privilege to clear? What Authority have you to accuse and arraign, which others have not to defend? If you had a Commission to revile without any Reply, it would be a *Defamation Patent*; for nothing is more cruelly defamatory than odious Allegations against a Man's Character, which are not to be tried or examined. If then you mal^{treat} me because I am a Minister's Advocate, when you are the Accuser, you subscribe a *Confession of Libelling*, and incur the worst Infamy by Consequence.

Believe

Believe me, Mr. Budgell, I scorn the little Tricks of the *Long Robe* in Construction of *libellous* Writings; I do not take every Thing to be such that the Law has been made to censure. But this I take to be undeniably *Libellous* and *Infamous*, when Men throw out dark and *random* Hints to vilify another against the *Truth* and *Evidence* of Things, when they *aspire* in Publick the most *private* Concerns, and make secret Affairs subservient to Scandal, which Affairs bear no Relation to publick Interests. These and other *equivalent* Terms may sufficiently describe the Thing, I wish you may not be guilty of any such Proceedings.

Nor am I fond of *Appeals* to the *secular Arm.* I do not want the Assistance of *Civil Authority.* My *only* Desire and Intention is to shew the *Falshood* of what you have *openly* advanced. In which Case I make no Doubt your *Complexion* will be as well known by fair Arguments alone, as if you had graced the *highest Eminence* that *Penal Laws* can prefer you to.

Neither have I herein Expectations of Sir R. *W's* Favour, since as to what I write, I know not whether it is even with the least Approbation; for being very sensible how much he despises whatever Falshoods are devised against him, I would not consult his Disposition on the Matter, had I ever so good Acquaintance with him. It is very probable if he was applied to by any one, he would forbid the least Attempt against you. But really I vindicate this Honourable Person from other Motives than *private Views*, and am therefore the less to consider his *private Inclinations*: Neither is it my Busines to offer him any *Incense* of fulsome Adulation; I leave that to those who never followed Courts or Ministers but to flatter them, nor withdrew from them but to libel them.

them. My sole Intention here is to do this Great Man that Justice alone, which would be his Due, and which I ought not to deny him, even tho' he was my greatest Enemy.

I therefore defy and despise the *foolish* Impputation of writing for Hire, an Exception ill becoming one of your *Profession*, and which, I believe, few Men will offer, who have made their Way well at the Bar.

Those who practise *extraordinary Liberties*, must not be surprized or displeased at *Retributions* or *Recriminations*. Even *Poverty*, *Misfortunes*, and *Calamities* will not palliate *Injustice*, nor the moving *artful Pleas* of great Distress engage the Pity of Mankind, for those who transgres the *Laws of common Humanity*.

Much may be said, nay, much must in Reason be allow'd to the Case of unhappy Men. Want of Liberty, Health or Plenty, to those who have largely enjoy'd them all, is a very *severe*, a very *uncertain Trial*. A good natured Mind will account for much *Peevishness*, *ill Humour* and *Confusion* in Writing or Speaking, when unfortunate Persons complain. But if such Persons renounce the Candor so highly becoming their Condition, if they take the Advantage of their very *Misfortunes* to asperse and injure other Men; if knowing they cannot be more unhappy, they let their *Mischiefs* fly at Random, and publish those malicious Falshoods to the World, which they dared not have said but within the *Walls of a Prison*; defying the *Laws* because they are exempt from Penalties, and in a Condition already so bad, that hardly any Thing can make it worse: If these are their Practices, what shall we say of such Men? Will Misfortunes plead the Cause of the Unjust? Will Calamities dispense with Honour and Conscience? Hath Right and Wrong a total Disso-

Dissolution within the *Rules of the Fleet*? Or shall Men of this Stamp move the Passions in their Consideration, who against the Sense of that Misery they feel, would be glad to inflict it on others?

You, Mr. Budgell, have us'd all the Arts that can move our Affections for human Nature in Distress. But Mankind are not so weak as to be ensnar'd by plausible Harangues and delusive Complaints. Complaints which you usher in to protect the most unjust Behaviour; as if *Poverty* was *Privilege* for the *License of Defamation*: And no Man should be safe in his Person or Fame, because Mr. Budgell is laid in a *Gaol*, and loaded with heavy Misfortunes.

Sir, you profane the Sanctuary you fly to; for Poverty or Misfortunes can only draw the Pity of Mankind on those who deserve a better Fate; and is this the Merit to obtain their Pity? Obloquy, Scandal, and Detraction: Practices deserving Severities I will not name; whilst that which would otherwise move our Compassion must in this Case raise Detestation, because it is a Guile to cover Injustice, and impose on the Tenderness of human Nature.

If, as some Persons have taken the extraordinary Liberty to say, you have been *disordered in your Senses*, you would then have a better Excuse than the most necessitous Case will amount to: For Men in the former Condition have a Privilege to say what they please, and the World have a proper Regard to what they do say; they consider it as what it really is, *Madness and Folly*; it draws no Resentment on the *Defamer*, nor does any Injury to the *Defamed*. But you, Sir, who still insist that your *Head is sound*, and so movingly lament that your *Estate is low*, contrary to all Equity, employ your *Understanding to abuse*, and

and your Poverty to deceive; whereas should you give up the Point in Dispute, no Man would blame you, and all Men must pity you, since what they now condemn being then an involuntary Misfortune, owing to the Influence of wandering Planets, would never be styled a Misde-meanor.

Mr. Budgell,

When you put your Memorial into his Majesty's Hand, undoubtedly you offered all those Complaints you thought proper for his Royal Attention, or entitled to his Gracious Redress: Having in this Manner made your Appeal to the *last Resort of Justice*, (a Resort to which all the Subjects of Britain are by their Birth entitled, and I hope I shall never hear any deny our Right to petition the King) I say when you had made this Appeal, it must ill become you to harangue the Populace on this Affair, the Subject Matter of your Memorial; it must ill become any one whilst he waited for Justice from his Prince, to bring a Remonstrance before the People: For this was mocking his Judgment, and affronting his Character; this was making your Appeal to his Majesty, and asking the Opinion of the Multitude; this was attempting to propagate unfair Prejudices, and bringing a Charge *where it could not be proved*, at the same Time deserting it in the only proper Place, *at a Time when it ought to be proved*.

Whether you have published any Matter contained in your Memorial, is very much to be questioned. You have solemnly assured us that you have not: You have very well said, that *you shall wait for the Signification of his Majesty's Pleasure with that Duty that becomes a Loyal Subject*. You have frequently affirmed that your

most intimate Friends have not seen, nor shall see it, till the King has determined his Opinion. And undoubtedly you would have us believe these repeated Affirmations.

We find, notwithstanding all this, that your clamorous Letter to the *Craftsman* is crammed with as violent a Charge against Sir R. W. as ever was invented or aggravated by the Wit or Wickedness of Man.

You accuse this Minister of *conspiring your Loss of Liberty, nay of plotting against your Life, and pursuing you even to Destruction.* You charge him that he spirited up your Adversary to throw you into Goal, that he confederated with so low a Wretch as B——e to take away your Life; and if that Committee of Enquiry, which he himself most heartily promoted, had not come to your timely Deliverance, you suppose that you should have been sacrificed to this *bloody-minded Minister.*

You still proceed more extraordinary Lengths, it is no great Rarity to abuse Sir R. W. tho' you, Sir, have finished the *Portrait of a wicked Minister,* and touched those *Masterstrokes,* which all the *Artists* of our Age have hitherto been unequal to. But yet you even go beyond this. You reflect on the Justice of the *High Court of Chancery,* the *Integrity* of its Judges, and the *Equity* of its Orders. You represent, that either the *Lord Chancellor,* or present *Master of the Rolls,* would not suffer an Account to be balanced, on one Article of which you lost your *Liberty.* You say they refused it, tho' you often required it, and draw the *Integrity* of those learned and honourable Persons in Question, whose Truth, whose Candour, and unbiased Integrity are justly and worthily acknowledged by all Mankind; nor were ever impeached by any till Mr. *Budgell* immortalized

mortalized his Fame for *Wit* and *Honesty* in libelling the Courts of *Judicature*.

As to these two several Complaints, the one against Sir R. W's. Cruelty, the other against my *Lord Chancellor King*, or Sir *Joseph Jekyll* (I know not which, for it lays between them) an Accusation of Injustice; the first of these being *Ministerial*, is proper for the Ear of the King; as the latter being merely *Judicial*, belongs for Redress to the *Lords* in Parliament.

Concerning this last I shall not dwell longer upon it :

But the first is most certainly a Matter of greatest Consequence, and demands immediate Consideration.

It is in Mr. Budgell's Memorial, or it is not; if not, it ought to have been there; and not being there, is fit for no other Place.

If this Accusation is in the Memorial, then has Mr. Budgell incurred the heavy Censure due to that Man, who makes a Remonstrance to the Populace, whilst his Appeal to his Prince remains unexamined, and ought to be proved.

If, as I have said, it is not in the Memorial, then it ought not to have been mentioned at all. For being insinuated by artful Hints, and with fly Reservations, it is only intended to blacken and to vilify this great Man's Reputation. Such a Charge ought never to be opened but when it is to be proved. And how will Mr. Budgell prove it from the Press? What are his Vouchers? Where are his Evidences? How shall we confront or cross examine them? And will a Man dare to make such an Attack upon the Fame of a Minister, without the least Intention to justify the Charge! Will he look to Heaven and pray for Mercy? Will he turn to Men and sue for Pity? Whilst he proceeds in such *Wickedness, Malice and Falshood*.

Mr. Budgell will say, to be sure, this Charge is not in his Memorial; if it is, it *belies* (in the most shocking Manner) all his former *solemn* Declarations: And if it is not, why is it not? Will he have the Modesty to make us believe he spar'd any Charge against Sir R. W. which he could prove or maintain? Will he persuade us, that his *Tenderness* suppress'd this Part of his Grievances, in his Complaint to the King? If so, What produc'd it in his Letter to the *Craftsman*? Can he prove it better to that Author, than he can to the sacred Name I have mention'd? Or, why has he trespass'd on Majesty after this Manner, that when he apply'd to his Prince against a Minister, and ought to have put all his Grievances into the Complaint, he reserv'd the blackest Pretence he could alledge, and apply'd it to another Purpose; apply'd it to enflame the Rabble; depriving the King of a proper Occasion to examine the most *borrid* Charge of Oppression, that ever was exhibited against a *British* Minister?

These are Matters, *Sir*, which ought to be answer'd, and *Infamy* will lie at your Door, if you do not clear them to publick Satisfaction.

Do you not say, That *in case* a Minister thus employs his Authority to such a Purpose, the King will let such a Minister know, how he ought to employ it to better Purposes?

Yet charging this Minister with these oppressive Crimes, you have not even made them known to the King, that he might reform and redress them; a Duty you ow'd your Fellow-Subjects, who must be as liable to Oppression as yourself, which Oppression, if it hath really been your own Case, you ought by all possible Means to prevent it, with Regard to others.

Prove this Point only, you need do no more, you need go no further. Nothing can be a more heinous Iniquity, a more aggravated Wickedness, than an Attempt upon your Life, a Combination with a Creditor to imprison, and with a Gaoler to murder you.

Make this appear to the Satisfaction of Mankind, we will believe all the rest, *the worst Things you can say against Sir R. W.*

But in order to make it appear, shew us likewise, *That be influenc'd your Bail to surrender you;* for you tell us, That you went to Prison in Discharge of your Bail. Now, if your Bail had thought fit to have trusted you longer at large, your Creditor could not have put you in Gaol, nor could you have fear'd a mercileſs Gaoler.

If you do not prove this great, this grievous Oppression, pray *what shall we say of you?* who alarm the World with what you dare not bring to the Test of Enquiry, and which you are afraid should be examin'd, tho' under the View of a most impartial and indulgent Judge, the Prince of whom we speak.

If, as you pretend, you would *venture your Life, and sacrifice your Blood, to prove the Charge against Sir R. W.* Why do you not offer *some Degree of Proof?* for even the *smallest* will shew a Disposition to prove what you assert. Does it well consist or agree with such *daring Declarations, such sturdy Defiances as you have made, that you would give up your Life in this Cause, if you fail'd in the Proof;* I say, does it correspond with such *seeming Intrepidity, to make this sneaking, this shuffling Prevarication in the Close,* that, *in your present Situation, you are in some Doubt, whether, with any tolerable Assurance of Impunity, you may venture to mention, even the most plain, the most notorious, and undeniable Facts?*

How

How then could you venture to mention the most *incredible, horrid, and astonishing Charge* that ever was heard of, and yet fear to mention the most plain, the most notorious, and undeniabie Facts?

Sir, It hath been your peculiar Misfortune long, very long, to be often *embroil'd*, on Account of *Productions*, call'd *Libels*; and whether the Memory of former Proceedings against you may inspire your Distrust of Impunity, I cannot determine: But you have this on your Side; you have at least one Security, that *Fines* and *Imprisonment* cannot possibly affect you, for you are in *Confinement* already. What is it then you have to fear? It is not *High Treason* to prove the Truth against Sir R. W. Even *Scandalum Magnatum* cannot be your Terror. You are *lodg'd*. You are already beyond its Reach.

Now therefore, since neither your Life or Liberty, your Lands or Goods, can any ways suffer by your Opposition to this great and honourable Person, mighty and powerful we allow him to be: What have you to fear? What is it you are any ways alarm'd at? for Providence hath happily indemnified your Ears by abolishing the Court of Star-Chamber, a Blessing that ought to be acknowledg'd.

It is a poor, a wretched Artifice, that you can have any Punishment to fear? Do you write to an Author call'd the *CRAFTSMAN*, and yet suspect that Gentleman may be punisht for libelling Sir R. W. You will certainly give pregnant Proofs of disorder'd Intellectuals, if you write and reason at this Rate.

I would gladly behold you enter the Lists with your Evidence; I very much want to hear what you can prove; but, alas! you are afraid to prove any Thing. And, *Why afraid?* Not of

of your Life, surely. It seems you was never greatly enamour'd with Life, and less than ever of late. What then are you afraid of? Why, of the Truth, most undoubtedly. A Man, who has nothing in Life to lose, can have nothing but Truth to fear.

It is only Heroick Rant in your Speeches and Pamphlets, that you will freely submit to the severest Punishment, even to Death itself, if you do not prove your Charge. In your Case, no legal Punishment can possibly affect you; and the King himself has no Power on your Life, be your Wrongs what they will to Sir R. W.

It is therefore trifling with Majesty to talk of the Punishment you hazard. It is equally ridiculous to insinuate that this Affair can end in your Destruction.

No, Mr. Budgell; the Great Man you abuse, was never the revengeful, the oppressive, or vindictive Minister that you insinuate: The whole Tenor of his Life, the Opinion of all Men, his Usage of his Enemies, and the Lenity he shews to Opposition; all these are against you; all these will confute you: Tho' if Cruelty was in his Nature, he would scorn to stoop so low, as to prey upon you: He acts from nobler Principles; and whatever Wrongs you have done him, I dare stake my Reputation on this Point, he will suffer you to enjoy your own Wretchedness in Quiet, without the least Molestation from his Resentments.

You lay some Degrees of Strels on Sir R. W.'s Proceedings against the late Lord Bolingbroke: And you observe this Great Man did not impeach that noble Person in the Zenith of his Power. You do not consider that the House of Commons are the only impeaching Voice, which great Assembly absolv'd Lord B. during his Time of Power. Sir R. W. would willingly enough have impeach'd

impeach'd that Minister, even in his *Zenith*, had it been practicable; yet, because he could not impeach him, did he cease to accuse him? No, Sir; He openly, and undisguisedly charg'd him, in a private Capacity, with those Crimes which were afterwards prosecuted in a more publick Manner. And tho' he could not at first combat a Minister, who had the whole Evidence in his own Hands, yet he did not accuse him at Random of Conspiracies to murder, with any such dark Hints, as you practise: He bravely oppos'd and accus'd him, nor ever was afraid to join Issue with that Lord on any Enquiry whatever. Far different from you, Mr. Budgell, who fly from Evidence, and fear Examinations.

I speak it with great Concern and Commiseration of your Person, that how little Distance soever there was formerly, between Sir R. W. and Eustace Budgell, Esq; You have now made that Distance so wide, by the Malice, the Madness, and Folly of these your Proceedings, that you are infinitely more remov'd from him than a Goal can be from a Palace.

I am sorry when I view the little Regard that you have for Truth, thro' the whole Tenor of your Pamphlet. Your confident Assurances that he wrote those Queries in the British Journal; yes, you knew it as certainly, as if you had stood by him when they were writing. Your equally bold Insinuation, that he wrote that Paragraph, which so much enflam'd you in the St. James's Evening Post, with your extravagant Assertion, that the last was a Pension Paper, supported by Two Hundred Pounds per Annum from the Treasury, and circulated gratis all the Kingdom over by the same Direction and Expence.

I think there never were more glaring Instances of an uncautious, unconcerned Disposition, in

in Relation to the Truth of Facts. As to the Queries in the British Journal, I procur'd them to be inserted myself, at a Time when I had not seen Sir R. W. in any Place whatever, above five or six Times, in the whole Course of my Life; and had so little Communication with him, that I do solemnly affirm, he never knew from me, nor I believe from any one, that I was the peculiar Author of those particular Queries. And I further declare, in the strongest Terms, that I never heard the least Mention of Mr. Budgell, or his Affairs, from this Great Man, by any Means whatever; neither have I at any Time concern'd myself in Mr. Budgell's Character or Conduct, by the Privity, Consent, or with the known, or even supposed Approbation of the Honourable Person above-mention'd. Now, because I privately imagin'd Mr. Budgell had a Share in the Libels of the Times on his Majesty's Administration, and propos'd it as a Question, which the Person I apply'd to could easily have contradicted, had he thought it convenient: This too at a Time, when Mr. Budgell was solliciting Favours at Court, or at least making every Advance to sollicit such Favours. Add to this, that I concluded they must be more than common Favours, which the Writer of Particular Inveſtigations must merit of the King; an Expression spoken with a *Sneer*, and not with a *Menace*; for I thought it a Reflection on Common Sense, that any Man should join the most virulent Opposition against a Court, and yet at the same Time expect Preferment in it. Now, I say, because these Questions were ask'd in this Manner, from a View to shew the Folly of such Expectations under such a Circumstance; therefore Mr. Budgell interprets more than common Favours to be expressly meant and intended for most unparalleled Cruelties; a Construction, which he

makes, by I know not what Figure of Speech or Rule in Language, and Expression.

If I may appeal to the Thoughts of my own Heart, I never entertain'd, in Regard to Mr. Budgell, the least Conception that had any View to Menace, or the least View that had a Tendency to Cruelty. And I do conceive, that if Mr. Budgell had any Kind of Evidence to prove himself oppress'd, he could not torture Words, and rack Italick Characters, to confess such horrid and inhuman Designs against him.

If he had not libell'd the Administration, as I suspected he had, it was as easy for him then to have asserted the Negative, as at this present Juncture; and his Neglect, together with the Craftsman's Silence, for near two Years together, justly confirm'd that Suspicion in many, till Mr. Budgell was so lately pleas'd to remove it.

As to his Reflections upon me, that *he never esteem'd me an Author of the first Class*, it makes me so little uneasy, I shall only return it by this Observation; That if Authors of that Class had ever been so charitable as to have lent me their Writings and their Fame, I might also have been reckon'd among the finest Writers of the Age, as well as some incomparable Persons, who need not be mention'd to be known.

And now, Sir, give me leave to observe, on the Matter relating to St. James's Evening Post. It is a Paper, wherein I have sufficient Authority to say, the Government never had any Concern, nor the Treasury ever gave the least Encouragement to it. And whereas you have so roundly asserted the contrary, try this Point with me if you dare to stake your Veracity in any Thing where Evidence is to be had.

Your first Objection to the Paragraph relating to you in the St. James's Evening Post, is so

so very singular, I cannot but chuse to transcribe it.

On Tuesday last one Mr. Budgell.] I have not lived so very obscurely, as to deserve being described by the Polite Phrase of one Mr. Budgell.

Sir, If you had paid for a Paragraph in that Paper, as you have often done in others, it would then have run in a more pompous Style. I imagine, viz. On Tuesday last, Eustace Budgell, Esq; a near Relation of the late Mr. Secretary Addison, and well known by his Excellent Performances in the Spectators, Guardians, and other immortal Writings *.

You see now the Reason why you lost your Titles, and therefore you must give all the Papers a retaining Fee, to insert them as Occasion requires. I know no other Means to preserve your Dignity; and this you have lately practis'd with good Succes.

Formerly, indeed, you met with an unfriendly Accident from a Brother of the Quill, I mean *the* Mr. Miss; I humbly ask the honourable Gentleman's Pardon, he was Nathanael Miss, Esq; a near Relation of the present worthy Mr. Fog, and well known for his Excellent Performances in the Weekly Journals, and other Important Writings.

I hope we shall all learn in Time how to speak politely of Great Authors.

This facetious Person, as I was going to remind you, received a splendid Description of your own composing, relating, in a marvellous Manner, the magnificent Entertainment you prepared for the King, on your own Estate in his Royal Progress to New-Market and Cambridge.

Which Description, it fully appears, he was very honourably paid to insert; and which many

* See the Craftsman, Miss's Journal, and all the Daily Papers, when his Majesty went to New-Market, in April 1727.

of the Daily and Weekly Papers did really insert for ready Money: But because Mr. Budgell had seemed to shew some Duty and Honour to his Majesty, therefore the worthy Journalist claps in the learned Account of this Affair among the common Advertisements, and thereby gave the World to understand, that Eustace Budgell, Esq; was become a mere Poacher for Reputation, had paid Money himself for the Publication of his own extraordinary Merits.

After this I hope never to hear more, that the Friends of the Ministry write for Hire, when their Enemies pay for their own insignificant ostentatious Vanity.

The Managers of that worthy Journal also inserted the following ridiculous Letter concerning a Person of no less Importance than Mr. Budgell himself.

Arra Sir, Berkshire, April 25, 1727.
 I Am by my Soul after being out of Patience to bear my Cousin Budgell talk in the Daily Post, that comes out Yesterday, of an Estate of his in Hertfordshire, three Quarters of a Mile, all along by the Side of a Road Faith, waching from one End to tother now —— Now then, by Cbriest, I have in Berkshire as good an Estate as Cousin Budgell have in Hertfordshire, and it lying all the Road, and upon the Highway Faith. —— I had a Person of great Quality, with four Coaches and six Horses all a Foot, with six Chairman all in a Coach, besides a great many Footsoldiers on Horseback. All went thro' my Estate for 30 Miles together, and tho' some of them had eaten very heartily at Dinner, they condescended to eat nothing with me.

Arra I am, dear Sir,
 Yours, MATT. LACKLAND.

And

And now, Sir, after all these Affronts offered to Mr. Budgell for a little *Respect* and *Duty* shewn to the King his lawful Sovereign, what may we conceive has reconciled him to these illusrious Journalists.

Nothing in the World, upon Honour, but much Abuse against Sir Robert Walpole.

So that even so criminal an Action as *Duty* and *Respect* to his Majesty, is, it seems, to be committed by that all atoning Virtue, Malice and Scurility against his principal Minister.

Now what may be the Consequence of this?

Why, Mr. Fog prints Mr. Budgell's Paragraphs in Places more distinguished than any in the Journal. They are not now placed in pitiful Corners among the common Advertisements.

Thrice happy Mr. Budgell! It seems his Sins are forgiven him; and that Paper which libelled both their Majesties, hath sung *Te Deum* for his Conversion to their Cause.

Nay, it has also given Place to his Speech at Court, with this extraordinary *Testimonial*, that he spoke it in a very modest and graceful Manner.

That Speech contains a Complaint, that he had not obtained a *private Audience* of his Majesty, tho' he had expected that one should be granted him for more than a Year and a half. But Mr. Budgell should have remembred his old approved Maxim, that if the Mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the Mountain.

As to the Matter so much insisted on, that an English Gentleman is not to be denied a *private Audience* of the King, great Doctors have frequently differed. All agree they have a Right to petition the King; there are none deny that a very modest and graceful Person may address his Majesty

Majesty at his *Levee*; but is every *English Gentleman* entitled to break in upon his Majesty's *Privacy*?

Then as to that *Special Plea*, Mr. *Budgell's* former *Publick Employment*; did that Employment, which was in the Kingdom of *Ireland*, ever entitle him to more than *ordinary Access* at St. *James's*; besides, they who remember *what Place* he had, do also remember *how he lost it*: And certain other remarkable Affairs well worthy af a *Memorandum*.

By this Way of Reasoning the King of *Great Britain* is by Office a *Slave* to every *Intruder*, to every little *quondam Secretary*. Nor can he have any *Hours of Recess* from *publick Affairs*, if *Gentlemen* please to insist upon *private Audience*.

If any *one* may demand a *Private Audience* as an *English Gentleman*, all have equal Right by the same Rule in Reason; and the King may at last want a *Private Minute* for himself, nor perhaps know how to obtain it.

Sir,

I have thus diverted my self with a little *Pleasantry*, I begin to be a little more serious. And now, Mr. *Budgell*, we will further consider that *solemn Art of Controversy* which you have practiced, the *terrible Insinuation* of *cruel Designs*, and *oppressive Proceedings* against you.

Through your whole Pamphlet you extort and *wrest* every Thing into such Meanings, as border on *Severity* and *Hardship*; ready to catch at every Thing in this Way, you have candidly construed a *foolish Sneer* in the *St. James's Evening-Post* to serve the same End. That Paper took the Liberty to say, *you was safely conducted from Court, home to your Family*. Nothing most certainly could be so mean and contemptible as this

ridicu-

ridiculous Passage. But who would interpret it as you do, that you was sent home by a *File* of *Musqueteers*, or at least by the Yeomen of the Guard? No, Sir, all that know your present Confinement, and the Circumstances of so important a Person can be no *Secret* with the Publick. All I say imagined, as well they might, that the Officer attending your Person, enlarged by a Day-Rule, safely conducted you home to your Quarters, the *Rules of the Fleet-Prison*.

You are so very industrious to make us imagine you are under *Persecution* and *Oppression*, that you even insinuate you waited on the King at the * *Peril and Hazard of your Life*. "Who would not think by this Suggestion that a Parcel of *Affassins* were *commissioned to murder*, or at least to *bastinado* you. I confess I was a little moved to see such a Falshood advanced in such a Manner, in a Letter which by the Title we are assured comes from Mr. *Budgell*, because I humbly conceive it contains an high Reflecti- on upon his Majesty himself. All good Princes have ever lent a gracious Ear to the Complaints of their Subjects; nor do I remember to have heard of any Prince so cruel, as to let *Affassins* demolish one of his poor Subjects, who came to acquaint him with what he conceived it was necessary he should know". Thus, Sir, you see how your own Charge of reflecting on Majesty is justly retorted upon you, and in your own Words, with very little Variation.

But granting this Paragraph in the *St. James's Evening Post* to be ever so wretched and foolish, as I must sincerely own I am no Advocate for it, why, Mr. *Budgell*, must it be fixed on Sir *R. W.*

* Compare Mr. *Budgell's* Letter p. 23, and 24, with what follows.

Can you be so weak as to surmise, that a Minister of his Employments and latge Share of Busines, has Leisure for so *idle* a Work as to *label* a *Reptile of an Enemy*? Or are there no Persons to write Paragraphs in that Paper, but a Gentleman of his *Distinction*? Why must all the Paragraphs writ against you, be writ by Sir R. W. I suppose you will take it ill that I insinuate, the Paragraphs writ for you, were writ by you: And yet I have better Evidence of this Kind, than you can have of the other. They were paid for as Advertisements, nay one of them printed among Advertisements. And who, I beseech you, will pay for the Insertion of Encomiums on you, but your own dear self?

Will all Men of Sense conclude from the low Arts you have recurred to in these your Invectives against Sir R. W. that you have no other Methods to accuse him but the old Strain of libelling. Heaven preserve you from the old Consequences.

You say (p. 28.) " That without the least Pain to your self, you will do Sir R. W. one Piece of Justice. This great Man has often complained that the Charges brought against him were in too general Terms; and you say, you you must ingenuously own, that you do think he has sometimes made his Complaint with a great deal of Reason. —— And you do think that no Man ought to be accused, and much less reputed guilty, who cannot be charged with particular Facts".

And yet you have the Modesty and Consistency, notwithstanding this specious Declaration, this plausible and fraudulent Acknowledgment; I say, you are so very consistent, that you have not attempted even to prove one particular Fact.

You say, you was once Sir R. W.'s Friend, when he was struggling with a very great, and a very

very able Man. I suppose you mean a Noble Earl, Minister in the last Reign, who has long since been with his Fathers.

But do you remember in all that Struggle, that this honourable Person ever libell'd the Great Man we speak of, ever abus'd him to his Royal Master, or to the Publick, with general Accusations, unsupported Improbabilities, dark Hints, or random Insinuations?

No, Sir, he had the Pleasure to suppress all such Attempts of this Nature as were offered to his Approbation, and never made his Appeals to the Populace against that Minister on any Account, but in the Defence of his own Reputation.

Whereas you have published a Six Penny Pamphlet against him upon Six Lines, which according to the utmost Probability he never saw till in Print, nor are you able to prove the contrary, aspersing him as the Author, and libelling him with what you are not able to prove, tho' of the most extraordinary Nature.

Did Sir R.W. ever offer his Life, his dearest Blood, to prove an Accusation against any Man, and afterwards fly from the Charge with a shameful Excuse, that he was afraid to mention the most plain, the most notorious and undeniable Fact?

And yet your great Modesty still insists that you are one of the most open and generous Enemies that ever any Great Man had, of which it becomes necessary you can satisfy the Publick by the most evident and undeniable Proofs.

Indeed it has become very necessary, and upon my Word you have abundantly satisfied the Publick. You have shewed your self an open and generous Enemy, by evident and undeniable Proofs, by charging him with procuring your Imprisonment, and yet owning, that you surrendered your self in Discharge of your Bail, by accusing him of a De-

sign to *murder* you, and suspecting him as capable of *Affassination* against you, by advancing these, with other horrid Allegations, by offering to *seal them with your Blood*, and yet owning your self *afraid to prove them*.

Sir, you are the most generous Enemy against a Minister, that the *Annals of English History* can shew, one only excepted: I mean *John Felton* of immortal Memory; and how long even *Felton's Generosity* may be an Exception to yours, I profess I am not able to determine.

The Publick indeed are satisfied with evident and undeniable Proofs of an open and generous Enemy. What others can you produce, unless you should *stab* that Person, whose Reputation you would *murder*?

If any are astonished and startled at this, if human Nature recoils at the Thought, let them consider whether Sir *R. W.* is more to be suspected of *Murder* and *Affassination*, than Mr. *Budgell*.

Such Measure, Mr. Budgell, as you mete unto others, such shall others mete unto you.

So said a great Authority, divine Inspiration it self:

And I am of Opinion it is Justice.

You boast of *small Obligations* done to Sir *R. W.* What were they? I suppose you have *bowed at his Levee*, you have *whispered in his Ear*, *praised his Pictures*, and done him *other such important Services*.

This Great Man is undoubtedly the *most obliged Humble Servant* in the World. Whether all that are pleased to style a *Minister of State* under *small Obligations*, are entitled to his *Favours, better Ca-suists*, are proper to determine; only this I may venture to observe, there is not one of those obsequious Multitude that throw their *Civil Grin* in his

his Face at a Lever, but think they have bigbly
obliged Sir R. W.

I am extremely delighted with your pious Resolution, to do nothing contrary to Honour. I congratulate you on its prodigious Effects. I must own with you, Sir R. W. is not in the least obliged to you for this Resolution, because in Reality you have not kept it in any one Instance, so very cautious are you of obliging this Honourable Person, since you have been pleased thus bravely to declare your self his most open and generous Enemy.

You have advanced another extraordinary Complaint, that under the specious Masque of an Execution, you had your very private Letters and Writings taken from you, and lost such Papers, as however trifling they may seem to those who are possessed of them, you would not have parted with for 1000L

And you add, that in more than one Instance you have been treated with greater Severity than ever any Englishman was before in the like Circumstances.

I suppose, Mr. Budgell, you have not the Goodness to suggest this against Sir R. W. If you suffered an Execution on your Goods, how can he help it? What Relation has this to an humble Complaint to the King against a Minister of State?

I know a certain worthy and ingenious Person who makes a Complaint of the same Kind. It is one Mr. P—. I pray Forgiveness, it is — P— Esq; a Gentleman well known for his excellent Writings on the Boards of the Mall, and other Publick Places.

This very important Gentleman laments with Tears in his Eyes, that he was wickedly set upon with a felonious Intention, and Papers were taken from him of so great Consequence, as however trifling they may seem to those who are possessed of them,

item, he would not have parted with for 20000l.

For which Reason he now secures his Papers of Importance in a long Pocket near his Skin, and within the Lining of his Breeches. This new invented Method has been never suspected, and hence he has escaped many other Attacks. I would also recommend it against an Execution.

The Severities no *Englishman* before ever suffered are Impeachments against the Courts of Judicature. I would desire to know if our Judges are now more *severe*, than were ever known in *England*, I believe not; but this I know, Mr. *Budgell* has within these *Ten Years* been involved in as many Law-Suits, *Informations on the Crown Side, Civil Actions, and Suits in Equity*, as any Man in *England*. It is therefore no Wonder, that a Gentleman so much concerned in all the Courts, should be liable to very *severe Consequences*.

And this may be truly observed of Mr. *Budgell*, that there never was one Law-Suit in *Law or Equity*, which he did not protract and litigate as long as ever he could by all possible Means. Nay, I have seen on an Information against him for libelling, all the Gentlemen of the *long Robe* stand ashamed that the Matter was not made up; and the only Reply that was made was this, that the Prosecutor was ready to accept any reasonable Satisfaction, that he waited only for common Acknowledgment, and that it lay entirely on Mr. *Budgell*. Nor was this once contradicted.

This too must be said, that more extraordinary Incidents happened in Mr. *Budgell's Causes*, than are usually known in any. Very extraordinary, elaborate and eloquent Observations, writ by God knows whom, and sent by *Penny Post* to prepossess the *Learned Judges* in Opinion.

I shall only add, that if Mr. *Budgell* would have been as industrious to have kept out of Suits in those

those Courts, as he was to shew his Parts upon those Occasions, he would not now have complained of any such *terrifying Severities*.

Mr. Budgell makes a very extraordinary Request to the *Craftsman*, that if he (Mr. B.) should happen to die by any *Accident*, Mr. D'Arvers will do him the Justice to believe some *curious Memoirs* which are to be left in the Hands of a Friend.

Is this, Sir, the Proof you intend to make of the Charge against Sir R. W? You are fit for *clean Straw*, and a *dark Room* indeed, if you think the World will believe *those Things* when you are *dead*, which you could not prove when *alive*.

I suppose you will then give us a *full and true Account* how Sir R. W. intended to *murder you*.

Sir, you have brought this Charge against the most improper Party in the World. Could you make no better Choice of a Person to accuse with such terrible Designs? Why he never *swore* once in his Life *to pursue any Man to Destruction*.

There is another Charge you have brought against him in *Fog's Journal of May 23*. That he has *stopt* a Rent due from the King for a Road that lies *through your Lands*.

Mr. Budgell, Sir R. W. cannot give the King's Money without the King's *Warrant*: You should apply for that to his Majesty. But there are two Things to be consider'd, *your Title* to those Lands, and the Right of those Lands *to that Rent*. Now when both these Points are so *very doubtful at Law*, what Board of Treasury will pay your Demand?

There is one Thing I must not omit, Mr. Budgell's Compliments to the Committee of Enquiry into the Gaol's. I commend them as heartily as he does

does ; but since, he seems to think the noble Warmth and Zeal of some of them was artfully misled into some Proceedings, to the Discredit of their Enquiries. I know not whose Art was employ'd ; but this I know, and am well assur'd, that Sir R. W. against whom this is levell'd, gave no Encouragement to any such Proceedings, and was greatly concern'd at the Measures that some Persons pursued ; which as he could not regularly prevent, so he very justly did his Part to defeat them, by bringing them into open Light, and under full Examination.

The Case of Sir R. W. and the L. C. J. Eyre, are too much alike in the Nature of the Slanders against them, which are equally *malicious, scandalous, false,* and utterly *groundless* ; as also their *Adversaries* and *Accusers* being before-hand in Gaol, incur no Hazard by a wicked Conspiracy, to *vilify, asperse, and defame* their respective Reputations.

In other Places you challenge Sir R. W. to prove his Loyalty greater than yours. How do you prove the Point on your Side ? By your Poem to the King on his Journey to Cambridge and New-Market, with your Dedication of that Poem to the Queen ? I must own I am exceedingly tender of any Thing done with a View to the Honour of their Majesties, whom I reverence on all Occasions, as well becomes my Duty to their Royal Persons : But since so much Noise is made about this Poem, I will venture to speak of it.

There is one Passage in it which entitled it to all the handsome Things Mr. D'Anvers has said in its Praise.

There ought to be no other Favourites in a Court than the King Favourite to the Queen, and the Queen Favourite to the King.

For

For God's Sake, is there any Division between these Royal Personages, that we have this Maxim reviv'd? Who divides the King's Favour with the Queen? Or who interferes with his Most Sacred Majesty, in the Right which he has to the Affections of that August Princess?

I think that Passage in the Dedication must be introduc'd with no Meaning, or with one that is a very high and heinous Reflection upon Majesty.

Yes, the *Craftsman* will suggest it strikes at a Favourite Minister. No, surely; Mr. Budgell could never have the high Presumption to insinuate, that any Minister whatever has rivall'd either of their Majesties, in Favour one with the other; and what then could he mean by this Expression, *there should be no Favourite in a Court but the King and Queen, reciprocally to each other.* Isabella of Castile had been often over-ruled by the Ministers of her Husband Ferdinand the Catolick, or she could not have inculcated that Sentiment with either Wit or Reason. For Princes must naturally favour those Ministers whom they approve and esteem as just and faithful Servants, nor can any one censure that Favour, if it is not derogatory to the Rights of either Partner in the Throne.

In the next Place Mr. D'Anvers most learnedly observes, he praises her Majesty, not for being a Queen, but for being a good Queen. This too is a most rare and singular Merit in Panegyrick. There never was such a Parasite among Men, as to praise a Queen professedly for being a Queen. Mr. Budgell must have been below the meanest Degree of human Understanding, if he had attempted to address a Princess, especially a Queen who has Knowledge in Letters, with such weak and wretched Adulation.

But

But what Mr. D'Anvers was most of all pleased with, was his incomparable Transition from New-Market to Avdenard. Let us then accompany our Bard in this Flight, and when he terrifies us with this Battle, what does he do? Why, like Mr. Bays, nothing at all. I say it again, nothing at all, for he only compliments a Horse. His Majesty, it seems, was prodigal of Life, his Valour was rash, and all that: But Egad the Horse was the Hero of the Poem, and all the Species, says the well turned Panegyrick, had greater Reason to be proud of the Glory of this Beast, than of their own distinguished Honour, that the King was present at their Races. And what was the uncommon Felicity of this Horse? Why, he was by Accident shot under his Majesty, and in Battle, mightily pleased to die in the Room of his Royal Master. And thus a random Bullet immortaliz'd a Horse.

I beg Leave to ask whether these were the Lines which Mr. Budgell thinks and styles not unacceptable to the greatest Prince upon Earth?

I have already spent so much Time in this Letter, that I shall not much longer engage you, Mr. Budgell, on any Thing which must be uneasy to you; especially so tender a Point as this Poem, which I perceive nearly touches you.

But since the crying Sin against you has been the Imputation of some Disorder of Mind, to remove the Complaint, I must offer my humble Conjectures in Proof, that you really are so.

First, The Judgment of your Friend the Craftsman is against you, who was of Opinion, that Imputations of Lunacy could give you no Uneasiness, unless you are really as mad as the Authors of such Reports are, in his Judgment mean and infamous.

Be it so then ; for it is plain you have been very uneasy on this Account, and therefore Mr. D'Anvers has pronounced you fit for Bedlam.

Secondly, Mr. Addison and the *Spectator* have made you mad ; near Fifty Times within these two Years have you claimed your Alliance to them in Print, and you never mention them but in a Raving Fit.

Thirdly, You must be mad and distractèd, because you have asserted in the *Daily Papers*, that this very Pamphlet under our View, your Letter to the *Craftsman*, is writ in so genteel and modest a Manner, that the World are convinced, you are so far from being disordered in your Senses, that you have as good Sense as most in the Nation.

Such Proofs as these would even satisfy a Jury, if they were impannelled on a *Commission of Enquiry*.

And after this Conviction Mr. Budgell shall continue in Peace for me. I have nothing further to say against him, nor any Complaint to advance, nor any Calumny to refute : For as Mr. POPE most judiciously observes, *Who'd wage War with Bedlam and the Fleet*.

On my Part I decline the unequal Strife, and am, &c.

R. M.

London, May 28,
1730.

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POSTSCRIPT.



POSTSCRIPT.

Mr. BUDGELL,

I AM very sensible how little Notice your Postscript may deserve, which was only intended to catch the Eyes, and raise the Expectations of the Publick, without the least Design to inform them of any Thing material.

Nor am I concerned at all your elaborate Proofs that you you are no *Irishman*, because if your Extraction or Education bears any Relation to *Modesty*, undoubtedly you have done so great Service to that Kingdom in this Postscript, that I envy none done to your self; and the Gentlemen of *Ireland* are proud to be acquitted of any Alliance to you, which perhaps might have strengthened those National Reflections that have so unjustly obtained.

Neither does the Pomp of your *Pedigree* or *Preferments*, set forth with such Pride in your Postscript, affect me in Defence of Sir R. W. for if you have been *wicked, malicious or unjust* in your Conduct to that Honourable Person, you highly disgrace an *ingenuous Parentage*, and little deserve an *Employment of Importance*.

But since you mention your Attachments to this Great Man, whilst in Opposition to the Earl of *Sunderland's Ministry*, by which you highly disengaged that noble Lord, and *another Person* for whom you had the utmost Esteem, meaning, I suppose, Mr. *Addison*; I am concerned in this, and shall consider it.

Did

Did you, Mr. *Budgell* adhere to Sir *R. W's* Measures against Lord *Sunderland's* Ministry, from the Motives of Justice to your Country, or from any Partiality in Favour of the Honourable Person?

If on the Principle of Publick Spirit you join'd Sir *R. W.* he is no more obliged to you, than to every one who then was dissatisfied with the standing Administration.

And whether he could possibly reward or provide for every Gentleman who declared himself against that *Great Minister*, I will leave even you to determine.

I perceive you entirely concur with the Measures of some *present worthy Patriots* against Sir *R. W.* yet I do not know whether these Gentlemen will hold themselves obliged, or be judged under any Obligations to answer your Demands on this Account, if ever they come into Power.

It ever was my Opinion, that whatever Favours a Man has laid Claim to, yet to harangue in publick Places, and arraign a Minister *personally* and *abusively* in every Coffee-House for Four or Five Years together, must cancel the strongest Obligations; and it is an Effect of some strange Phrenzy to imagine otherwise.

R. M.

London, June 5,

1730.

F I N I S.